

Farmers Market Blends Freshness, Convenience



Bigger and better than ever, the Kennesaw Farmers Market is anticipating opening this year on Tuesday, May 4, offering farm-fresh vegetables, fruits, garden plants and herbs as well as fresh baked goods, jams, jellies, honey and locally produced items. The market will be open every Tuesday through October from 7 am - 1 pm in the Adams Park Soccer Field parking lot adjacent to the Community Center (2753 Watts Drive). It is sponsored by the Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority (KDDA).

"This is the 6th year our Farmers Market has been bringing excellent quality produce to downtown Kennesaw. Every year, more and more local farmers and bakers look forward to this opportunity to serve the citizens of Kennesaw," said KDDA Vice Chair and local

restauranteur Brett Olszeski.

Last year's market featured 45 different participating growers and vendors, some bringing their picked-that-morning vegetables from farms up to 65 miles away. It was so successful, the operating hours were expanded into the afternoon, although the early-bird shoppers reaped the benefits of the greatest variety and number of choices.

For questions about the market or about being a vendor, call 770-499-0874 or 770-794-7075.



A visit to the 16 acre Smith Gilbert Gardens is always a feast for the senses, with verdant trees and shrubs, an incredible variety of plants and flowers in various stages of bloom, and an array of pathways featuring beautiful greenery and enhanced by more than 30 interesting sculptures and works of art. This year, the Gardens also offer some new features and recognitions.

In February, the extensive bonsai collection of Don Schuck, a prominent Cobb County horticulturist, found a new home at Smith Gilbert. His donation includes several hundred dwarf trees and shrubs in various stages of development. These bonsai will be added to the existing display previously cultivated by the former owner,



Dr. Robert Gilbert.

Thanks largely to the efforts of volunteers Jo Evelyn Morris and Cheryle Kerr, Smith Gilbert's extensive grouping of conifers has recently been recognized through an invitation to join a group of ten other southeastern gardens participating in the American Conifer Society Reference Garden program.

Smith Gilbert Gardens are located at 2382 Pine Mountain Road. The Gardens are open to the public Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm. Adult admission is \$7. The Gardens also have sites that are available as meeting, wedding or reception venues. Visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov/sga for more information.

Kennesaw Mayor & Council

Mark Mathews
Mayor
770-231-5743

Cris Welsh
Council Post 1
770-560-7435

Tim Killingsworth
Council Post 2
678-873-7146

Bruce Jenkins
Council Post 3
678-251-6381

Bill Thrash
Council Post 4
404-392-3105

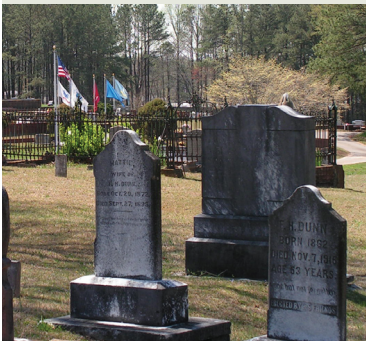
Jeff Duckett
Council Post 5
678-251-6380

Neighborhood News and Views

Seniors Eligible for Property Tax Exemption

Did you know the City of Kennesaw offers a property tax exemption to residents age 65 and over? The application to qualify is available on the city website, www.kennesaw-ga.gov (click on City Services/Finance/Property Tax to find the form). In addition, the applicant must provide a photocopy of identification such as a Georgia drivers license. Call 770-424-8274, Ext 3015 for more information.

Historic Cemetery Spruced Up on Decoration Day



The Kennesaw Cemetery Preservation Commission will host its annual Decoration Day, an event dedicated to cemetery beautification, on Saturday, May 1 from 10 am - 2 pm. "We take this time each year to clean headstones and make the cemetery more inviting. It is a way to show respect for those that have passed and to honor our heritage," said Commission Chair Mary Helen Hagin. The event will feature free food and beverages and cleaning materials will be provided.

Southern Museum Acquires Rare Historical Treasure

A rare Army of Tennessee regimental flag, complete with bullet holes and blood stains, was donated to the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History by Don Davis, Rhonda Davis Nesmith and Pete Davis on February 18. The flag has been in the Davis family for 145 years after being brought home by Private John Davis of the 65th Georgia Infantry Regiment, who served as the unit color bearer. Private Davis is the great great grandfather of the current generation of Davis'. The flag was carried by its unit throughout the entire Atlanta campaign, traveling to the Army of Tennessee after the fall of Atlanta to Union Forces. It last flew at the November 30, 1864 Battle of Franklin (Tennessee), a battle in which one quarter of the 27,000 man army were killed or wounded in three hours. When the battle was lost, Private Davis rolled the flag up and tucked it into his boot to save it from destruction.

The next step for the flag will be the long and careful process of conservation and mounting. Thanks to the Davis family for sharing a piece of southern heritage.



Book It!



Drop off your gently used hardcover or paperback books, CDs and DVDs at the Ben Robertson Community Center and receive a ticket redeemable for the same number of books, CDs or DVDs during "open swap" time on Saturday, April 24 from 8-11 a.m. Items are accepted Thursday and Friday, April 22-23, noon to 8 p.m.

This is not a sale - it is a free media swap. Books must be in good condition with front and back covers intact. CDs and DVDs must be fully operable and in their original cases. Any items left after the swap will be donated to a local charity.

Message from Mayor Mathews



I think we can all agree it's been a long, wet, cold winter and we're glad to see it end! I'm always energized by the signs of spring - warm sun on our faces, new growth on trees and in gardens, people out and about for exercise and recreation.

It's in this season of rejuvenation that we look forward to some exciting events here in Kennesaw. The Big Shanty Festival will undoubtedly be bigger and better than ever, and will once more be highlighted by an evening performance of the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. The free outdoor movie season starts in May and the Summer Concert Series, including some really first rate entertainment, kicks off in May as well.

And spring is the perfect time to visit the Smith Gilbert Gardens, where something new is blooming almost every day.

Celebrate the season and enjoy all that Kennesaw has to offer.

See you around town,

It's Census Time

Every 10 years, Congress mandates a census of the population. This count is used to determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress as well as the amount of state and federal funding communities receive.

The 2010 Census will only have 10 questions and take 10 minutes to complete. It will ask for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you rent or own your home. Responses are required by law and are strictly confidential.

It's easy - complete and mail your census questionnaire promptly! Visit www.census.gov/2010 for more infor-

Fun Things to Do

Big Shanty Festival

Kennesaw's biggest special event of the year, the 34th Annual Big Shanty Festival, will take place this year on April 17-18. Co-sponsored by the City of Kennesaw and the Kennesaw Business Association (KBA), the Festival features over 250 crafters, artisans, and vendors as well as live entertainment, a Civil War encampment, children's activities and 30 food booths. It all starts with a parade at 9:30 am featuring local high school bands and over 1,000 young marchers. The parade route includes North Main Street from Sardis Street to Big Shanty and Cherokee Street. Admission is free. Again this year, a Saturday evening program at Kennesaw Mountain High School will be highlighted by the performance of the 24-man Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. The Marines execute a series of drill movements and precise handling of their hand-polished, 10 1/2 pound M-I Garand rifles with fixed bayonets, capped by elaborate rifle spins and tosses. Several high school bands and drill units will also perform. The program will be capped off by a thrilling fireworks display.



Outdoor Movie Series



View family-friendly films "on the green" at Swift-Cantrell Park on a giant inflatable screen. On May 8, the feature film is *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* (rated PG) and the June 12 film is *Monsters vs. Aliens* (PG). All films start at dark, but activities begin at 6 pm; admission is free (there is a charge for concessions). Movie enthusiasts are welcomed to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnic dinners or enjoy concessions available at the park.

Summer Concert Series

The Summer Concert Series starts off this year with *The American Flyers*, featuring popular music of the last fifty years. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic baskets for this free outdoor concert on May 15 at 8 pm at the Depot downtown.

Upcoming Southern Museum & Smith-Gilbert Gardens Events

The **Southern Museum** celebrates the Week of the Young Child, a salute to young learners and their caregivers, during the week of April 10-17, offering special admission prices. And on Saturday, May 8 from 1-4 pm, mothers and daughters can enjoy a traditional Victorian teatime at the Mother & Daughter Tea. Details can be found at www.southernmuseum.org.

Enjoy spring at the **Smith-Gilbert Gardens** with several special events. On April 10, Sue Dean from Lost Mt. Nursery will demonstrate how to put together eye-popping container gardens. The Fern Lady, Eleanor Craig from Fern Ridge Farms, visits on June 5 to talk about fern varieties that thrive in southern gardens. Hydrangeas will be the topic for Mike Sikes from McCorkle Nurseries on June 26. Each demonstration begins at 10 am and plants will be available for purchase.

Don't miss the plein air (outdoor) painting competition at the Gardens on May 6-7 from 9 am - 4 pm and watch the artists in action. Paintings will be available for purchase on May 8 from 9 am to 4 pm and Mother's Day, May 9, from 1-5 pm.



A Message from your School Board Member

Despite the economic challenges and other external distractions facing the school district, the academic performance of Cobb County students has shown improvement in recent years and tops state and national results.

This current school year has experienced a \$95.1 million dollar deficit. The fiscal year 2010-11 budget deficit is estimated at \$70-100 million. Nonetheless, 36 of our schools were honored for academic success by the Georgia Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, based on student performance on the Georgia High School Graduation Test and the State Criterion Reference Test. Five Cobb schools were named 2009 Georgia Schools of Excellence and numerous Cobb schools were named winners of the 2009 Superintendent's Distinguished Achievement Awards. Five high schools were named 2009 Advanced Placement Honor schools by the state.

There are too many accolades due our students, teachers and principals to name, but be assured that the Cobb County School District continues to offer students a very high quality education.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as the Post 1 board member. If you need to contact me, I encourage you to do

Online Bill Payment Now Available

The City is now offering a safe, convenient way to pay your sanitation and tax bills online from any computer with Internet access. The site is secure and your private information is protected.

For more details, visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov



CITY OF KENNESAW
2529 J.O. Stephenson Ave.
Kennesaw, GA 30144

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Events/City Services Calendar

For more information on events, go to www.kennesaw-ga.gov/CurrentEvents.asp

Southern Museum

Kennesaw's Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History offers an array of popular educational programs and exhibits. The Jolley Educational Center features hands-on interactive exhibits. Programs for children include the *Mommy & Me* Series (Thursdays, 10-11 am) and the *Make It & Take It* workshops (Saturdays, 10 am - noon), both free with museum admission. The Museum also offers history lectures, living history, guided tours and traveling exhibits.

A Smithsonian Institution affiliate, the Southern Museum features collections of rare Civil War weapons, uniforms, and other items; an exhibit about The Great Locomotive Chase, including a short movie; and a full-scale replica of a locomotive factory that helped rebuild the South after the war.

For a schedule of events and programs at the Southern Museum, please call 770-427-2117 or visit www.southernmuseum.org

Smith-Gilbert Gardens

Located on 16 acres, Smith-Gilbert Gardens offer tours and programs conducted by enthusiastic volunteers and master gardeners. The Gardens are open Monday through Saturday, 9 am-4 pm. Adult admission is \$7. Guided tours (free with admission) are offered every Friday and the 1st Sat of the month at 10 am; children's classes are offered the 3rd Sat of the month.

For more information or to schedule an event or meeting at the Gardens, call 770-919-0248 or visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov/sga

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Editor: Pamela Davis

770-424-8274

pdavis@kennesaw-ga.gov

Community Events

Apr 17-18 (Saturday/Sunday) - **Big Shanty Festival**, Depot and Main Street downtown, Sat 9:30 am - 6 pm; Sun 12-5 pm. **Salute to the Military**, KMHS, Sat 7:30 pm

Apr 24 (Sat) - **Book/CD/DVD Swap**, Community Center, 8-11 am (drop off items Apr 22-23, 12 - 8 pm)

May 8 (Sat) - **Outdoor Movie - *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* (PG)**, Swift Cantrell Park, 6-10 pm

May 15 (Sat) - **Summer Concert Series, *The American Flyers***, Depot, 8-11 pm

Jun 12 (Sat) - **Outdoor Movie - *Monsters vs. Aliens* (PG)**, Swift-Cantrell Park, 6-10 pm

Jun 18 (Fri) - **Exhibit Opening: *The Working White House: 200 Years of Tradition and Memories***, Southern Museum, 6-8:30 pm; exhibit runs through August 29

Summer Camp Registration Begins in April

Choose from week-long day camps, action-packed sport camps or unique specialty camps. Visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pkrec for more information.

Sanitation/Trash Pickup Schedule Changes

There will be no sanitation services on city observed holidays (Apr 2 & May 31). Service will resume the next regular pick up day.

Call 770-421-8582 for more information.

Key Contacts

City Clerk: Debra Taylor

770-424-8274

dctaylor@kennesaw-ga.gov

City Manager: Steve Kennedy

770-429-4544

skennedy@kennesaw-ga.gov

Court Services: Linda Johnson

770-429-4531

ljohnson@kennesaw-ga.gov

Economic Development: Bob Fox

770-794-7075

rfox@kennesaw-ga.gov

Human Resources: LisaRae Jones

770-424-8274

ljones@kennesaw-ga.gov

Parks & Recreation: Doug Taylor

770-422-9714

dtaylor@kennesaw-ga.gov

Planning & Zoning: Darryl Simmons

770-590-8268

dsimmons@kennesaw-ga.gov

Police Department

770-422-2505

Property Tax: Christy Huiel

770-424-8274 Ext 3015

chuiel@kennesaw-ga.gov

Public Works: Earnie Via

770-421-8582

evia@kennesaw-ga.gov

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